



June 7, 2018

Via First-Class Mail and Email

Honorable Patrick McDonnell, Secretary of Environmental Protection
Chairperson, Environmental Hearing Board
16th Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
pmcdonnell@pa.gov

Dear Mr. McDonnell:

On August 15, 2017, the Environmental Quality Board (“EQB”) accepted DRN’s Petition to establish a State maximum contaminant level (mcl) of 6 ppt for drinking water for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA). At that meeting, the Department of Environmental Protection recommended that the Agency’s findings be presented by June of 2018.

I am writing as we enter the month of June of 2018, to share the wonderful news that last Friday, the New Jersey’s Drinking Water Quality Institute unanimously voted to approve its recommendation for a maximum contaminant level (mcl) for Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) of 13 ng/L (ppt). See http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/g_boards_dwqi.html. While the Delaware Riverkeeper Network asserted and still believes that a lower limit would have better protected citizens of New Jersey, we were pleased and proud that the New Jersey Drinking Water Quality Institute had taken decisive action to protect its citizens. We are hoping that citizens of Pennsylvania will likewise benefit and obtain the necessary protection that a maximum contaminant level for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) would bring. We are keenly aware that perfluorinated compound (PFC) exposures are correlated with kidney disease, testicular cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, pregnancy-induced hypertension/preeclampsia, and ulcerative colitis and that values must be set sufficiently low to protect those most sensitive to the contamination and harms: children. We are also keenly aware that communities in Pennsylvania continue to be harmed by PFC in their drinking water wells and that insufficient cleanup has left Pennsylvanians, including families, with grave concerns for their future health and that of their children. As fully set forth in our Petition, Article I Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution requires that the State government ensures the preservation of the state’s

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natural resources, including the provision of safe drinking water. This is further recognized in the Pennsylvania State Drinking Water Act.

Each day that passes in which another citizen sustains detrimental harm through exposure to PFOA and the concomitant failure to properly and prudently regulate these known hazardous is an abrogation of the State's duty and responsibility. Accordingly, we sincerely appreciated the EQB's acceptance of our Petition, last August and hope to see the establishment of a protective mcl moving forward to final rulemaking in the very near future.

Please know that DRN is ready to assist the process so as to expeditiously establish an enforceable State-wide mcl for PFOA to protect Pennsylvanians. We look eagerly forward to well-considered action on our Petition. Please let me know if there is anything further that we can do to enable forward momentum on this important Petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deanna K. Tanner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "T".

Deanna K. Tanner
Senior Staff Attorney